



# U.S. Senator Judd Gregg, Chairman

## Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

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### **GREGG COSPONSORS BILL TO IMPROVE PATIENT SAFETY** *Joins Sens. Frist, Jeffords & Breaux In Effort to Report and Analyze Medical Errors*

**Washington, DC** – Today Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee cosponsored legislation that will improve the quality and safety of health care.

The “Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act,” which was introduced today, will create a system where doctors and other health care professionals can report medical errors in an effort to reduce their occurrence. The data will be collected without invading patient privacy or opening up health care workers to further lawsuits. The reports will be analyzed by medical organizations, which will develop procedures to prevent similar errors from happening again.

“So long as there is a human element to health care, there will be human error. But if we can make changes to reduce and eventually eliminate those errors, we can save countless lives. By giving doctors a chance to report errors while maintaining a patients’ legal rights, doctors and health care workers can learn from their mistakes, make sure they aren’t repeated and prevent new mistakes from occurring,” said Senator Gregg.

“One study estimates 98,000 people die each year from medical errors. Even one death is too many. Access to safe, quality health care is something every American deserves, and this legislation will help the health care industry learn from its mistakes and ultimately improve patient safety and save lives,” Gregg said.

Senator Jeffords (I-VT), Senator Frist (R-TN), and Senator Breaux, (D-LA) are also cosponsoring the legislation. Senator Gregg cosponsored similar legislation last year.

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